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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration
Washington, D. C.

November 30, 1942

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 36

Inspection of Commodities Sold or Transferred to Other Agencies

From time to time commodities are sold or transferred to the Army, Navy, Red Cross, and other agencies. The number of such transactions probably will increase. Sales also are made to commercial firms when necessary. Frequently, considerable time will have elapsed between the date of inspection and delivery to us and the date of delivery to the agency purchasing or receiving from us. Considerable change in condition may occur with some commodities during that time. The question arises as to what our policy should be with respect to inspection in such cases.

It is impracticable to formulate a definite rule to be followed in all cases. The nature of the commodity and the circumstances surrounding the transaction have a bearing upon whether reinspection should be made before delivery. The following procedure should be observed:

1. The general rule should be that we want to make good delivery according to the grade or specification we furnish the purchasing or receiving agency.
2. In making sales to the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, we should offer them the privilege of inspection, by their own inspectors, before delivery. In any event we should make our inspection records available to them, if desired. If a reinspection by us is desired before delivery, we should make it, provided sufficient time can be allowed.
3. With respect to purchases for the account of non-Lend-Lease Governments, we should see that deliveries are covered by a recent inspection, depending upon the nature of the commodity.
4. Commodities stored at the Newark Tidewater Terminal, Newark, New Jersey, and the Great Lakes Transit Company at Buffalo have been purchased for military use and are still in our possession. The Transportation and Warehousing Branch should arrange with the appropriate commodity branch for the inspection of these commodities at 60-day intervals.

5. Commodities sold to commercial concerns should always be reinspected, unless approval to waive reinspection is obtained from the Administrator's Office. This does not apply to sales in connection with the Caribbean and Territorial Programs. We should, however, take every reasonable precaution to see to it that deliveries under those programs are covered by sufficiently recent inspection to insure good condition at time of loading on ships in U. S. ports.
6. Although we have had comparatively few complaints regarding Lend-Lease shipments, the Transportation and Warehousing Branch and the commodity branches should take such additional precautions as may be practicable to see to it that all commodities for Lend-Lease shipment are in good condition when they pass out of our control.
7. The Transportation and Warehousing Branch, as a part of its warehouse inspection, should give special attention to commodities delivered to the Red Cross, even though actual delivery has been made to the Red Cross but the Commodities are held in storage for future use by that agency.
8. Whenever we have reason to believe that commodities in our possession are deteriorating or are likely to deteriorate soon, the Transportation and Warehousing Branch, in conjunction with commodity branches, should recommend action necessary to prevent spoilage. We must keep our inventories clean of commodities of doubtful use. This becomes increasingly important as contingency reserves are established.

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